

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 3995 SENT ACTION SECSTATE IMMEDIATE
SEPT 28

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USUN 3995

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ECOSOC, UNGA, EINV

SUBJECT: ILLICIT PAYMENTS WORKING GROUP

REF: USUN 3936

1. THE RESUMED ECOSOC TO ELECT THE WORKING GROUP ON
ILLICIT PAYMENTS HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 30.
AT THIS POINT, THERE IS A DEARTH OF NON-WEO CANDIDATES.
AS A RESULT, THERE IS A STRONG MOVE UNDERWAY, PRIMARILY
G-77 BUT WITH SOVIET-BLOC SUPPORT, NOT REPEAT NOT TO EXPAND
THE GROUP BEYOND THE 18 MEMBERS CALLED FOR IN THE
RESOLUTION WITH "EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION" PATTERNED
ON THE CURRENT ECOSOC MEMBERSHIP (I.E. 4 OR 5 WEO MEMBERS).
THIS POSES SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR THE WEO GROUP WHO HAVE NINE
ANNOUNCED CANDIDATES, AND THE END RESULT COULD
BE AN OPEN ELECTION RATHER THAN AN AGREED SLATE OF WEO CANDID-
ATES. IN ADDITION, THE PRESENT LACK OF INTEREST BY
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OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS DOES NOT BODE WELL FOR THE EVENUAL

SUCCESS OF THE EXERCISE.

2. USUN, AND TO SOME EXTENT OTHER WEO'S, HAVE ARGUED THAT THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD INCLUDE THE PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE SUBJECT MATTER, AND THUS "NORMAL" GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION MIGHT BE TREATED AS SUI GENERIS IN THIS INSTANCE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH THIS LINE, BUT IT HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY OTHERS OSTENSIBLY FOR FEAR OF SETTING A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT. FURTHER, THE EGYPTIANS HAVE EXPLICITLY TOLD US THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO TAMPER WITH TRADITIONAL GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION WOULD ENDANGER THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE WORKING GROUP.

3. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER APPROACHING CAPITALS OF SELECTED NON-WEO COUNTRIES URGING THEM TO SEEK MEMBERSHIP ON THE WORKING GROUP. WE RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED BOTH IN TERMS OF TIME AND SELECTIVITY. BUT SHOULD OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS, SAY THE AFRICANS OR LA'S, EXCEED THEIR LIKELY ALLOCATION UNDER AN 18-MEMBER FORMULA, CHANCES OF OBTAINING AN EXPANSION WEO INTEREST ARE GREATLY IMPROVED. AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE ABOVE, WE MIGHT WISH TO RECONSIDER THE QUESTION OF SEEKING AGREEMENT TO HAVE ONE EC-9 SPOKESMAN.
SCRANTON

UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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